AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computing machine (1) comprising: a RAM (3)

and

a mass memory (5) an operating system for the machine stored in the mass memory,

the mass memory (5) including a partition (8), said partition being read-only

accessible to the operating system, and containing a startup function[[,]] and an

automatic repair function, [[and]] the automatic repair function adapted to call a

mounting function for mounting that mounts said operating system.

10. (Currently Amended) A computing machine according to claim 9,

characterized in that wherein said startup function comprises a first code sequence for

loading that loads the contents of the partition (8) into the RAM (3) and a second code

sequence for activating that activates said automatic repair function in the RAM.

11. (Currently Amended) A computing machine according to claim 10,

characterized in that wherein said automatic repair function comprises a third code

sequence that calls said mounting function, the mounting function executable in RAM

(3) with write capability in at least one other partition (9) of the mass memory (5).

12. (Currently Amended) A computing machine according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> said automatic repair function comprises a fourth code sequence ~~for acknowledging~~ <u>that acknowledges</u> an error indicated by said mounting function and a fifth code sequence ~~for restarting~~ <u>that restarts</u> the machine after the acknowledgement of the error.

13. (Currently Amended) A computing machine according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> said partition ~~(8)~~ contains a standard acknowledgement function and in that the fourth code sequence calls said standard acknowledgement function executable in RAM with write capability in at least one other partition ~~(9)~~ of the mass memory.

14. (Currently Amended) A computing machine according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the mass memory ~~(5)~~ is a hard disk.

15. (Original) A computing machine according to claim 9, further including a switch for resetting the RAM and restarting the machine.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically starting a computing machine ~~(1)~~ having a RAM ~~(3)~~ and a mass memory ~~(5)~~ having an operating system stored therein, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ <u>comprising</u>:

starting operation of the machine ~~(1)~~ by means of a signal ~~(7)~~;

loading into RAM ~~(3) the~~ contents of a partition ~~(8)~~ of the mass memory ~~(5)~~;

mounting an operating system from the RAM ~~(3)~~ <u>that includes an automatic</u>

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repair function based on a call from the automatic repair function; and

acknowledging any error indicated in mounting the operating system and

reactivating the loading of the contents.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that it comprises, in~~ further comprising during the manufacturing phase of the

machine ~~(E):~~

creating partitions ~~(2, 3)~~ in the mass memory ~~(4)~~;

storing at least part of the operating system and functions for executing a

startup, the automatic repair function that is capable of calling a mounting function

and an acknowledgment function ~~the second, third and fourth steps (15, 16, 17)~~ in a

first partition, ~~(2); and~~

wherein said first partition ~~(2) is to be~~ is read-only accessible to said operating

system.